APR 3 0 2002 8

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:

FLEMING, DANIEL L.

Application No.:

09/638346

Group Art Unit:

ORIGINALLY FILED

Case No.: 55680

Filed:

August 15, 2000

Examiner:

EGAN, Brian P.

Title:

✓STRUCTURED RELEASE LINERS WITH IMPROVED

ADHESION TO ADHESIVE ARTICLES

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:

april 19,20

Signed by: Shannon M. Bruce

Dear Sir:

This response is to the Office Action mailed April 8, 2002. Claims 1-30 have been restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-18 are said to be drawn to a release liner, classified in Class 428, subclass 401; and
- II. Claims 19-30 are said to be drawn to a method of using a release liner, classified in Class 156, subclass 240.

Applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1-18) without traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the claims of Group II (claims 19-30) from consideration. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the withdrawn claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Data

Carolyn V. Feters, Reg. No.: 33,271

Telephone No.: 651-736-7929

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company P.O. Box 33427

St. Paul, MN 55133-3427 Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833 RECEIVED
TO 1700